

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00387 182005Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-06 AID-01 SSM-01
/034 W

-----047401 182010Z /46

R 180506Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 755
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CHUSMTM
SANG PMO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0387

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
SUBJECT: CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS: SANG MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

1. IN COURSE OF WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH CODEL WILLIAMS/
STEVENS ON JANUARY 9, SNAG DEPUTY COMMANDER PRINCE BADR SAID
THAT HE AND PRINCE ABDULLAH WERE COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH
RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. IN ITS ROLE IN THE MODERNIZATION PRO-
GRAM OF SANG. IF PROBLEMS AROSE, THEY WERE AMONG FRIENDS
AND ONLY ADDED TO THE WORKING EXPERIENCE OF THE TWO PARTIES.
IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR STEVENS' STATEMENT THAT U.S. WAS
KEENLY INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN MODERNIZATION OF THE SANG,
PRINCE BADR SAID THAT SAG INTENDED TO CONTINUE MODERNIZATION
AND HE HOPED THAT CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT PROGRAM.

2. BADR CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT QUALITY OF FRIENDSHIP WAS
DETERMINED BY OPPORTUNITY TO BE FRANK. IT WAS VERY
EASY MATTER FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO OBTAIN WEAPONS ESPECIALLY
SINCE SAG PAYS FOR THEM. MANY STATES WOULD WELCOME
OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SAUDI ARABAI. FOR EXAMPLE,
SAUDI ARABIA COULD BUY ARMS FROM USSR. AT THIS POINT,
SHEIKH TURAYJERI, SANG ASST DEPUTY COMMANDER, BROKE IN TO SAY
THAT THIS WAS FAR FROM THEIR THINKING. BADR ECHOED
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TURAYJERI'S INTERJECTION AND SAID THAT THIS WAS ONLY FAR-OUT
EXAMPLE JUST TO SHOW THAT WEAPONS WERE OBTAINABLE. HOWEVER,
SAUDI ARABIA PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH FRIENDS. U.S. AND SAUDI
ARABIA HAD MUTUAL INTERESTS. U.S. NEEDS SAUDI ARABIA AND
SAUDI ARABIA NEEDS U.S.
WEST

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA00387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0582
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780151/aaaabqns.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9eb5cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3756845
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS: SANG MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9eb5cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014